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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

Responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Letter dated 20 June 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with instructions received from the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, I have the honour to draw your attention to ongoing violations of the ceasefire by the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia, recorded for the month of May 2011 (see annex). As a result of these violations, during this period two Azerbaijani servicemen were killed and one was seriously wounded.

Over the last months the armed forces of Armenia intensified attacks on Azerbaijani civilians and civilian objects. As I informed you earlier (A/65/780-S/2011/132 and A/65/821-S/2011/251), on 8 March 2011, a nine-year-old Azerbaijani child was shot dead by an Armenian sniper. On 26 May 2011, the civilian population of the Chiragli village of the Agdam district of Azerbaijan was subjected to continuous fire by the armed forces of Armenia. On 3 June 2011, Elmar Piriyev, a resident of the Aghjabadi district of Azerbaijan, was killed by Armenian militaries in the Chemenli village of the Agdam district of Azerbaijan situated near the front line.

Besides such inhuman and unjustifiable actions, the high-ranking officials of Armenia continued their irresponsible statements and provocative visits to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, thus openly and deliberately challenging the international mediation efforts aimed at the soonest settlement of the conflict.

Thus, in an interview on 16 May 2011 to the *Moskovskie Novosti* (Moscow News) newspaper, full of the usual historical falsifications and factual distortions,

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President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan confirmed once again that the Armenian side considers the conflict settlement process only as a means of achieving the annexation of Azerbaijani territories (official website of the President of Armenia, available from www.president.am/events/press/eng/?id=69).

The views of the President of Armenia about the relevant international legal principles and their application and scope in the context of the settlement of the conflict unambiguously testify to the fundamental and persistent denial by this State Member of the United Nations of the generally accepted norms and principles of international law. The ideas conveyed to the public in the aforementioned interview of Serzh Sargsyan are none other than a product of stereotypical thinking and sheer nonsense in terms of not only the letter and spirit of law but also elementary logic. In addition to Armenia's confused history and the annexationist and racially motivated nature of its policy and practice towards neighbouring nations, yet another flow of revelations from the head of the Armenian State also demonstrated how intellectual and educational gaps are detrimental to the decision-making ability of this country's high-ranking officials.

It is notable that, while the President of Armenia acknowledged his active involvement in the "Garabagh movement" since 1988, the Vice-Chairman of the ruling Republican Party of Armenia, Razmik Zohrabyan, informed the public several days before the interview of Serzh Sargsyan that the so-called "Garabagh movement" had been a product of the State Security Committee (KGB) of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

In his interview, the President of Armenia made it clear that his country's territorial claims are not limited to the Daghlyq Garabagh (Nagorno Karabakh) region of Azerbaijan but also include other parts of the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan, in particular its Autonomous Republic of Nakhchyvan.

The Republic of Azerbaijan rejects any suggestion that Daghlyq Garabagh and Nakhchyvan had ever belonged to Armenia in the past and that these territories had been allegedly "detached and handed over to Azerbaijan" by the Soviet authorities only in the 1920s. The Republic of Azerbaijan considers Armenia's historical accounts false and as having the sole purpose of misleading the international community and justifying groundless territorial claims and annexationist aspirations.

From ancient times up to now, both Daghlyq Garabagh and Nakhchyvan were inalienable parts of Azerbaijan. The mass resettlement of Armenians in the Azerbaijani lands after the signing on 12 October 1813 and 10 February 1828 of the Gulustan and Turkmanchay treaties, respectively, accompanied by the imposition of artificial territorial division and purposeful attempts by the Armenians to expand their territorial scope at the expense of other peoples living in the region, laid the basis for long-term instability, tensions and conflicts there. Suffice it to say that, during the Soviet period, the territory of Armenia increased from 8,000-10,000 to 29,800 square kilometres. As a result, the Nakhchyvan region of Azerbaijan was cut off from the main body of the country. There is not a single Azerbaijani remaining in present-day Armenia of the more than half million Azerbaijani people who lived there when Soviet rule was established in the region. These facts are supported by numerous documents and acknowledged in Armenian official and academic sources.

Moreover, in the 1920s, the ancestral land of Azerbaijan — Daghlyq Garabakh — was given the status of autonomy within the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan, and its administrative borders were defined in such a way as to ensure that a small Armenian population constituted a majority in this autonomy. At the same time, a significantly larger Azerbaijani population residing in the Soviet Socialist Republic of Armenia at that time was refused the same privilege, and attempts to so much as mention this were promptly, roughly and savagely suppressed.

I would also like to refer to the letter dated 28 May 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations, circulated as documents A/65/848-S/2011/326, in which the author is trying to blame Azerbaijan for alleged "anti-Armenian propaganda" and "circulation of disinformation". However, such resentment is obviously irrelevant against the background of the continuing illegal occupation by Armenia of the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan, its unconcealed annexationist intentions and apparent disrespect for the position of the international community.

In its unconvincing attempts to draw the international community's attention away from the main problems by claiming that Azerbaijan has allegedly ignored and even mocked the proposals and statements on the withdrawing of snipers from the line of contact, the Armenian propaganda falls into its usual forgetfulness. Otherwise, the Permanent Representative of Armenia would recollect his Government's non-compliance with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and General Assembly, which, inter alia, demanded immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of all Armenian forces from all the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, as well as with numerous documents and decisions of other international organizations calling to put an end to the occupation of Azerbaijani lands.

In his letter, the Permanent Representative of Armenia confirmed once again that his country rejects the recommendations of the Co-Chairs of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group presented on the basis of their field assessment mission to the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan. It should be noted in this regard that the field assessment mission visited the occupied territories on the initiative of Azerbaijan, while Armenia, the occupying Power, is the only addressee of the call of the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group to refrain from additional actions that would change the demographic, social or cultural character of the occupied territories of Azerbaijan (such as further settlement, the erection of monuments and the changing of place names).

It is notable that recent sniper attacks on Azerbaijani civilians, visits by the Armenian high-ranking officials to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and their hostile statements coincided with the intensification of peace efforts. Thus, in their joint statement of 26 May 2011 made in Deauville, France, the Presidents of France, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America — the countries co-chairing the OSCE Minsk Group — inter alia, made it clear that the current status quo of the occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan is unacceptable and that the time has arrived to take a decisive step towards a peaceful settlement.

The Republic of Azerbaijan has no doubts that the international law-based settlement of the conflict provides for the complete withdrawal of Armenian armed

forces from all the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, the restoration of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, the return of the forcibly displaced population to their places of origin and the peaceful coexistence of Armenian and Azerbaijani communities in the Daghlyq Garabagh region within the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Unfortunately, attempts by the Armenian side to misinterpret the norms and principles of international law and its insistence on unrealistic annexationist claims, which Azerbaijan will never accept, speak to the real intentions of official Yerevan and represent an open challenge to the conflict settlement process and a serious threat to international and regional peace and security.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34, 39, 66 and 75, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Agshin **Mehdiyev**
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 20 June 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Violation of the ceasefire by the military forces of the Republic of Armenia[a] for the month of May 2011

Date	*Time*	*Fire point area*	*Direction*	*Weapons used*	*Casualties and damage*
1 May	13.10-13.15 18.25-18.30	Berkaber and Paravakar villages, Ijevan district, Armenia	Gizilhajili village, Gazakh district, Kohne Gishlag village and unknown heights, Asgtafa district, Azerbaijan	Firearm and machine gun	—
2 May	03.40-03.54	Occupied areas outside Gorgan village, Fizuli district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent area	Firearm and machine gun	—
3 May	05.20-05.55	Occupied areas outside Chileburt village, Tartar district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent area	Firearm and machine gun	—
	13.00-13.40	Occupied adjacent area	Tapgaragoyunlu village, Gornaboy district, Azerbaijan	Firearm and machine gun	—
4 May	00.10-00.30 03.10-03.15 03.12-03.14	Occupied adjacent area	Mazirli and Yusfjanli villages, Agdam district, Azerbaijan	Firearm and machine gun	—
5 May	12.00-12.35	Unknown heights, Krasnoselskiy district, Armenia	Unknown heights, Gadabay district, Azerbaijan	Firearm and machine gun	—
	23.50-23.55	Paravakar village, Ijevan district, Armenia	Unknown heights, Aghstafa district, Azerbaijan	Firearm and machine gun	—
6 May	12.00-__	Occupied Talish village, Aghdara district, Azerbaijan (military exercises)	Adjacent area	Heavy armour, artillery, as well as firearm and machine gun	—

[a] Settlements of the Republic of Azerbaijan included in this information are under occupation by the Republic of Armenia or close to fire point areas.

Date	*Time*	*Fire point area*	*Direction*	*Weapons used*	*Casualties and damage*
	19.25-19.55	Occupied areas outside Gizilbaba and Chayli villages, Tartar district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent area	Firearm and machine gun	—
	21.15-21.25	Occupied area outside Horadiz village, Fizuli district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent area	Firearm and machine gun	
7 May	05.15-05.30	Occupied areas outside Gizilbaba and Chayli villages, Tartar district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent area	Firearm and machine gun	—
9 May	19.50-19.55	Berkaber and Paravakar villages, Ijevan region, Armenia	Gizilhajili village, Gazakh district, Azerbaijan	Firearm and machine gun	—
10 May	01.15-01.20	Occupied area outside Yusifjanli village, Agdam district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent area	Firearm and machine gun	—
	04.05-04.10	Occupied unknown heights, Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent area	Firearm and machine gun	—
	06.15-06.35	Occupied area outside Giziloba village, Tartar district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent area	Firearm and machine gun	—
	18.10-18.45	Unknown heights, Krasnoselskiy district, Armenia	Unknown heights, Gadabay district, Azerbaijan	Firearm and machine gun	—
	23.00-23.05	Occupied areas outside Garakhanbayli and Ashagi Garakhanbayli villages, Fizuli district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent area	Firearm and machine gun	—

Date	*Time*	*Fire point area*	*Direction*	*Weapons used*	*Casualties and damage*
11 May	04.05-04.10	Occupied areas outside Garakhanbayli and Ashagi Garakhanbayli villages, Fizuli district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent areas	Firearm and machine gun	—
	10.05-10.10	Mososgerkh village, Berd district, Armenia	Agdam village, Tovuz district, Azerbaijan	Firearm and machine gun	—
	19.30-19.55	Unknown heights, Krasnoselskiy district, Armenia	Unknown heights, Gadabay district, Azerbaijan	Firearm and machine gun	—
13 May	01.50-02.15 02.20-02.26 03.40-03.45	Occupied areas outside Ashagi Veysalli and Ashagi Aburahmanli villages, Fizuli district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent areas	Firearm and machine gun	—
	02.20-02.30 04.55-05.15	Occupied areas outside Chayli and Seysulan villages, Tartar district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent areas	Firearm and machine gun	—
	23.04-23.10	Occupied unknown heights, Horadiz district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent area		
14 May	00.05-00.25	Occupied areas outside Javahirli and Sarijali villages, Agdam district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent areas	Firearm and machine gun	—
16 May	04.10-04.30	Occupied area outside Chayli village, Tartar district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent area	Firearm and machine gun	—
17 May	00.10-00.30	Occupied areas outside Yusifjanli and Gargashli villages, Agdam district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent areas	Firearm and machine gun	—

Date	*Time*	*Fire point area*	*Direction*	*Weapons used*	*Casualties and damage*
	23.00-23.10	Occupied areas outside Yusifjanli and Gargashli villages, Aghdam district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent areas	Firearm and machine gun	—
18 May	02.18-02.24	Occupied unknown heights, Gorgan village, Fizuli district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent area	Firearm and machine gun	—
	05.20-05.25	Occupied area outside Namirli village, Tartar district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent area	Firearm and machinegun	—
	17.50-18.00	Berkaber, Ijevan region, Armenia	Gizilhajili village, Agstafa district, Azerbaijan	Firearm and machine gun	—
	19.00-19.20	Unknown heights, Krasnoselskiy district, Armenia	Unknown heights, Gadabay district, Azerbaijan	Firearm and machine gun	—
	20.30-20.40	Occupied unknown heights, Fizuli district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent area	Firearm and machine gun	—
19 May	00.50-01.05	Occupied area outside Yarimja village, Tartar district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent area	Firearm and machine gun	—
	09.05-09.10	Voskevan village, Noyanberyan district, Armenia	Adjacent area	Firearm and machine gun	—
	21.20-21.45	Occupied unknown heights, Horadiz district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent area	Firearm and machine gun	—
20 May	15.45-16.10	Unknown heights, Krasnoselskiy district, Armenia	Unknown heights, Gadabay district, Azerbaijan	Firearm and machine gun	—
	20.00-20.25	Occupied area outside Shikhlar village, Agdam district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent area	Firearm and machine gun	A sergeant of the Azerbaijani Army, Rahman Mamedov, was shot to death

Date	*Time*	*Fire point area*	*Direction*	*Weapons used*	*Casualties and damage*
	22.35-23.10	Occupied area outside Yarimja village, Tartar district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent area	Firearm and machine gun	A soldier of the Azerbaijani Army, Farid Farajov, was shot to death
22 May	12.55-13.00 22.50-22.55	Occupied areas outside Ashagi Aburahmanli and Ashagi Seyidahmadli villages, Fizuli district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent areas	Firearm and machine gun	—
	21.00-21.35	Adjacent area	Unknown height, Goygol district, Azerbaijan	Firearm and machine gun	—
23 May	00.10-00.20	Occupied areas outside Yusifjanli and Javahirli villages, Agdam district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent areas	Firearm and machine gun	—
	01.15-01.25	Occupied areas outside Giziloba village, Tartar village, Azerbaijan	Adjacent area	Firearm and machine gun	—
	13.20-13.40	Unknown heights, Krasnoselskiy district, Armenia	Unknown heights, Gadabay district, Azerbaijan	Firearm and machine gun	—
	18.40-18.50	Occupied unknown heights, Fizuli district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent area	Firearm and machine gun	—
	19.45-19.50 21.50-22.20	Occupied area outside Chayli village, Tartar district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent area	Firearm and machine gun	—
24 May	17.20-17.38	Baremekavan village, Noyanberyan district, Armenia	Gaymagli village, Gazakh district, Azerbaijan		
	23.40-23.50 23.50-00.00	Occupied areas outside Javahirli and Yusifjanli villages, Aghdam district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent areas	Firearm and machine gun	—

Date	*Time*	*Fire point area*	*Direction*	*Weapons used*	*Casualties and damage*
25 May	00.25-00.30	Occupied area outside Gorgan village, Fizuli district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent area	Firearm and machine gun	—
	00.30-01.20	Occupied area outside Namirli village, Tartar district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent area	Firearm and machine gun	—
	10.10-10.25	Occupied area outside Meshdili village, Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent area	Firearm and machine gun	—
	15.10-15.15 22.20-22.40 22.40-23.00 22.40-22.45	Occupied areas outside Gorgan and Ashagi Abdurahmanli villages, Fizuli district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent areas	Firearm and machine gun	—
26 May	18.00-18.30	Occupied area outside Bash Garvand village, Agdam district, Azerbaijan	Chiragli village, Agdam region, Azerbaijan	Firearm and machine gun	Civilian settlements were subjected to fire
	19 30-19.35	Occupied area outside Yusifjanli village, Agdam district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent area	Firearm and machine gun	—
27 May	00.25-00.44	Occupied area outside Chayli village, Tartar district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent area	Firearm and machine gun	A soldier of the Azerbaijani Army, Anvar Iskandarov, was seriously wounded
31 May	01.15-01.30 01.20-01.23	Occupied area outside Ashagi Abdurahmanli village, Fizuli district, Azerbaijan	Adjacent area	Firearm and machine gun	—

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Letter dated 17 June 2011 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and further to my letter dated 26 January 2011 and paragraph 4 of resolution 1977 (2011) of the Security Council, I have the honour to transmit herewith the tenth programme of work of the Committee for the period from 1 June 2011 to 31 May 2012 (see annex).

The Committee would appreciate it if the present letter, together with its annex, were brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Baso **Sangqu**
Chair
Security Council Committee established
pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

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Annex

[Original: English]

Programme of work of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) for the period from 1 June 2011 to 31 May 2012

The Security Council, in operative paragraph 4 of its resolution 1977 (2011), decided that the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) would submit an annual programme of work to the Security Council before the end of each May, and decided that the next programme of work would be prepared before 31 May 2011. The tenth programme of work of the Committee covers the period from 1 June 2011 to 31 May 2012. The Committee has agreed on the following work programme to fulfil its responsibilities under Council resolutions 1540 (2004), 1673 (2006), 1810 (2008) and 1977 (2011).

The Security Council, in operative paragraph 9 of its resolution 1977 (2011), decided that the Committee shall continue to intensify its efforts to promote the full implementation by all States of resolution 1540 (2004) through its programme of work. This includes the compilation and general examination of information on the status of States' implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) as well as States' efforts at outreach, dialogue, assistance and cooperation; and addresses in particular all aspects of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of that resolution, which encompasses (a) accountability, (b) physical protection, (c) border controls and law enforcement efforts and (d) national export and trans-shipment controls, including controls on providing funds and services such as financing to such exports and trans-shipments; and includes, as necessary, specific priorities for its work, taking into account its annual review on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), prepared with the assistance of the group of experts before the end of each December.

The Committee will continue to work with Member States on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1540 (2004), 1673 (2006), 1810 (2008) and 1977 (2011), guided by the principles of transparency, equal treatment, cooperation and consistency in its approach.

In order to implement the tenth programme of work more efficiently, the Committee will continue to operate a system of four working groups, open to all members of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). The working groups will focus on important and recurring issues. In addition, the Committee will publish a schedule for periodic meetings of all four working groups that strives to meet its objectives efficiently and promptly. Such a schedule will then include periodic feedback by working groups responsible for monitoring progress on: (i) monitoring and national implementation; (ii) assistance; (iii) cooperation with international organizations, including the Security Council Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1373 (2001); and (iv) transparency and media outreach.

All working group meetings will be open to all Council delegations and will be announced to all Council delegations. All meeting documents will be circulated to all Council delegations prior to meetings. The work will be organized in a manner that enables all delegations, regardless of size, to participate fully in all their

activities. The Committee will promote greater transparency by, where relevant, holding open meetings on those working group outcomes approved by the Committee and by communicating those outcomes to national contact points.

These arrangements for the working groups are detailed in the appendix, which constitutes a portion of the work programme.

The Committee will focus its attention on, but not limit it to, five main areas of work: (i) monitoring and national implementation; (ii) assistance; (iii) cooperation with international organizations, including the Security Council Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1373 (2001); (iv) transparency and media outreach; and (v) administration and resources.

1. Monitoring and national implementation

(a) Prepare a review of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) before 31 December 2011, in line with the requirements of operative paragraph 9 of resolution 1977 (2011), and to address all aspects of resolution 1540 (2004), in particular all aspects of its operative paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, including the developing and maintaining of efforts in implementing resolution 1540 (2004) in accordance with national legal authorities and legislation and consistent with international law; and also with a view to including, as necessary, specific priorities for its work in the next programme of work;

(b) Continue its efforts to encourage States that have not yet submitted their first reports to do so, including researching publicly available websites of Governments and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations in order to identify legislation and other measures for States that have yet to report and, in an effort to encourage them to prepare and submit their first report, share that information with those States in the form of a matrix;

(c) Continue examining incoming first reports, submissions of additional information from States, researching available websites of Governments and international, regional and subregional organizations, conducting dialogue with States (including during country visits at States' invitation), participate in relevant outreach or implementation activities to gather relevant information on national implementation efforts, make available the findings of these examinations to States in the form of a matrix, along with requests for clarification or for updates on relevant legislation and enforcement measures, and encourage States to strengthen their efforts in regularly sharing information with the Committee that updates it on their efforts to implement resolution 1540 (2004);

(d) Encourage States, in line with operative paragraphs 7 and 12 of resolution 1977 (2011), to identify and voluntarily report on effective national practices in implementing resolution 1540 (2004) so that they might be used in providing further general and specific guidance, upon request, to States seeking assistance in implementing the resolution;

(e) Under operative paragraph 8 of resolution 1977 (2011), encourage all States to prepare on a voluntary basis national implementation action plans, with the assistance of the 1540 Committee as appropriate, mapping out their priorities and plans for implementing the key provisions of resolution 1540 (2004), and to submit those plans to the 1540 Committee;

(f) With input from the Committee's working groups on monitoring, assistance and cooperation, consider preparing, regularly updating and making available, as appropriate, a compilation of effective practices in accordance with operative paragraphs 7 and 12 of resolution 1977 (2011);

(g) With input from the Committee's working groups on monitoring and assistance, initiate, by requests to States, an update of the legislative database, and encourage States to make appropriate use of the background information provided through it by striving to make it more user-friendly and responsive to interests expressed by States;

(h) Continue to raise awareness about the relevant multilateral treaties or conventions that aim to prevent the proliferation of, or eliminate, weapons of mass destruction so as to contribute to their universality; and

(i) Continue consideration of the obligations and requirements under resolutions 1540 (2004), 1673 (2006), 1810 (2008) and 1977 (2011) to identify areas for further work by the Committee, such as gathering additional information on dates of measures, inter-agency cooperation, enforcement and prosecutions.

2. Assistance

(a) Collect up-to-date information on requests for or interest in assistance by States and offers of, interest in and programmes of assistance by States and international, regional and subregional organizations, clarifying, as appropriate, whether existing offers have been met, otherwise promote assistance in close consultation with the States concerned, and maintain such information in a regularly updated database;

(b) Conduct more overviews of the requests, offers and related assistance programmes to develop more effective matching strategies;

(c) Conduct country-specific visits, at the invitation of States, to better understand the challenges of national implementation and to better develop tailored strategies to facilitate national implementation and, where appropriate, help States obtain assistance;

(d) With input from the Committee's working group on assistance, and also from the Committee's working group on cooperation, where appropriate, continue to organize and participate in outreach activity at the international, regional and subregional levels and, where appropriate, with States, to facilitate coordination of assistance programmes, promote the sharing of experience, lessons learned and effective practices with a view to their inclusion in a compilation in line with 1 (f) above, collect information on requests for, offers of or interest in assistance, and liaise on the availability of programmes that might facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004);

(e) Encourage and, where appropriate, assist States to integrate their implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) obligations into their pursuit of broader national objectives convergent with the resolution;

(f) Implement and continually review current procedures on processing incoming assistance requests and offers of assistance, and provide regular updates on the status of requests and offers to the parties involved;

(g) Provide, upon request, information to Member States and international, regional and subregional organizations to help them to make more effective offers of or, for States, more effective requests for assistance, including using the matrix and the assistance template as tools, including the preparation of requests for assistance if asked;

(h) In cases where States prefer not to post their matrix, seek their consent to share said matrix, as appropriate, with potential assistance partners; and

(i) Consider regional approaches to assistance needs and efforts to meet them, including assistance requests made through regional organizations, or jointly by States members of customs unions, free trade zones or weapons-free zones.

3. Cooperation

(a) Enhance its cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations, and develop ways of operating with those organizations on a case-by-case basis, reflecting the variation in each organization's capacity and mandate, including exchanges at the working level, briefings to and from the Committee, and enhanced information-sharing arrangements;

(b) Expand both formal and informal working relationships with international non-proliferation mechanisms, including zones free of nuclear weapons or weapons of mass destruction, other United Nations bodies and international, regional and subregional organizations, where applicable, to:

(i) Facilitate the sharing of information on effective practices and lessons learned, and develop and implement standards, including with a view to their incorporation into the compilation envisaged in 1 (f) above;

(ii) Identify assistance requirements and programmes whereby its work with international, regional and subregional organizations, can focus on facilitating the activity of those organizations to remedy national implementation challenges, such as reconciling priorities, harmonizing approaches, facilitating advisory and drafting services, and matching requests and offers of assistance; and

(iii) Enhance information-sharing, coordination on visits to countries, within their respective mandates, technical assistance and other issues of relevance to the Committee and the Security Council Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1373 (2001), as appropriate;

(c) Under operative paragraph 18 of resolution 1977 (2011), encourage international, regional and subregional organizations to designate and provide a point of contact or coordinator for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by 31 August 2011, and maintain up-to-date information on such contacts; and

(d) Continue to participate in the joint briefings to the Security Council.

4. Transparency and outreach

(a) Increase interaction on a regular basis with all United Nations Member States, including, where appropriate, through open meetings as noted in operative paragraph 20 of resolution 1977 (2011), and by regularly updating its website;

(b) Complete the establishment of e-mail distribution lists for contacts of the 1540 Committee;

(c) With input from the working group on monitoring, post updated matrices on the website, as appropriate;

(d) Publish on the Committee's website the calendar of outreach events and workshops conducted, sponsored or co-sponsored by the Committee or Member States, as well as information notes on such activities, and update and maintain a list of frequently asked questions about, inter alia, the work, membership, Chair, coordinators, group of experts and implementation;

(e) Produce and update regularly, and at least monthly, a calendar of outreach events or similar activities, covering periods of at least six months into the future, that includes information on other activities of relevant States, international, regional and subregional organizations, the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) and other United Nations bodies;

(f) Encourage States to promote dialogue and cooperation, including with civil society, academia and industry, to address the threat posed by illicit trafficking in nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, and related materials;

(g) Increase efforts to raise awareness among parliamentarians and other high-level decision makers;

(h) In line with operative paragraph 22 (d) of resolution 1977 (2011), consider ways to better utilize and maintain expertise, including, in particular, of former experts of the group, that could be made available for specific missions and assistance needs regarding the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004);

(i) Continue to brief the Security Council, Member States and international, regional and subregional organizations, formally and informally, about the work of the Committee and the obligations and requirements of resolution 1540 (2004).

5. Administration and resources

(a) Under operative paragraph 5 (b) of resolution 1977 (2011), submit by 31 August 2011 recommendations for the Committee and the group of experts on expertise requirements, broad geographic representation, working methods, modalities and structure, including consideration of the feasibility of a coordination and leadership position of the group of experts;

(b) As required under operative paragraph 22 (a) of resolution 1977 (2011), prepare a report to submit to the Council by January 2012 on the possibility of strengthening the support provided by the Office of Disarmament Affairs to the 1540 Committee, including through strengthening of the regional capacity of the Office to support the implementation of the resolution at the regional, subregional and national levels;

(c) Continue to conduct regular meetings of the Committee and its working groups and, as necessary, additional meetings with relevant parties to further the mandate of resolution 1540 (2004), including meetings that might include participation from capitals on topics of high priority;

(d) Encourage States and international, regional and subregional organizations, as appropriate, to provide support to the work of the Committee and its programmes;

(e) Continue to encourage and take full advantage of voluntary financial contributions to assist States in identifying and addressing their needs for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), and, at the Committee's discretion, promote the efficient and effective use of the existing funding mechanisms within the United Nations system; and

(f) Continue its efforts to ease the transition of new non-permanent members to the Committee, and maintain the network of non-permanent members leaving the Committee to support the implementation of the resolution.

Appendix

Arrangements for a system of working groups to support the tenth programme of work of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

1. *Monitoring and implementation*

This working group will monitor progress on part 1 of the tenth programme of work, including follow-up work on the comprehensive review and overseeing the status of implementation:

- Explore and execute more effective ways of obtaining missing information
- Make any recommendations deemed necessary for the revision of matrices
- Assume the responsibilities and authorities of the three subcommittees, which shall not meet for the period of this programme of work
- Consider what methodologies might be appropriate to produce quantitative measures of success within the terms of resolutions 1540 (2004), 1673 (2006), 1810 (2008) and 1977 (2011)
- Report to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) after each meeting

2. *Assistance*

This working group will monitor progress on part 2 of the tenth programme of work, including the following:

- Organize work, as appropriate, at the regional and subregional levels to help to achieve these objectives
- Process incoming assistance requests in the light of the enhanced clearing-house role of the Committee, which now includes matching requests with offers
- Recommend shared experiences to enhance coordination among States offering or considering offering assistance
- Report to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) after each meeting
- By 31 December 2011, submit a report to the Committee on what has been accomplished, what has worked, and what has not worked

3. *Cooperation with international organizations, including the Security Council Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1373 (2001)*

This working group will monitor progress on part 3 of the tenth programme of work, including the following:

- Lead work with the other Committees, their experts and monitoring teams to expand the common strategy on reporting
- Work with the other Committees, their experts and monitoring teams to develop a more coordinated approach to subregional workshops, in line with paragraph 36 of resolution 1822 (2008), and within respective mandates

- Report to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) after each meeting

4. *Transparency and outreach*

This working group will monitor progress on part 4 of the tenth programme of work, including the following:

- Consider and seize opportunities for industry and media outreach that would complement and support the work of States, which, by paragraph 8 (d) of resolution 1540 (2004), are called upon "to develop appropriate ways to work with and inform industry and the public regarding their obligations under such laws"
- Consider and seize opportunities, as appropriate, for direct interaction with relevant industries and industry groups, academia and civil society
- Identify opportunities to highlight the threat of weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of non-State actors
- Report to the Committee after each meeting

Each working group will be chaired by a member of the Committee, supported by the staff of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the expert staff of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and its secretariat, as necessary.

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The situation in Afghanistan

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Sixty-sixth year

The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 1974 (2011), the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) until 31 March 2012 and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council on a quarterly basis on developments in Afghanistan. The present report is the first submitted pursuant to that resolution.

2. The report provides an update on the activities of the United Nations in Afghanistan since my previous report dated 9 March 2011 (A/65/783-S/2011/120), as well as a summary of key political and security developments, regional and international events related to Afghanistan, and significant humanitarian, development and human rights efforts of the United Nations in Afghanistan.

II. Political and security developments

A. Security situation

3. During the reporting period, the number of security incidents was 51 per cent higher than in the same period in 2010. The majority of incidents involved armed clashes and improvised explosive devices. Suicide attacks have increased significantly since March 2011, with 17 suicide attacks in April, including five complex attacks, a higher number than any month in 2010. Abductions and assassinations of Afghan citizens also rose during the reporting period. The city of Kandahar and its surroundings registered the majority of the incidents during the reporting period, with a quarter of the overall attacks and more than half of all assassinations recorded countrywide.

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4. On 1 April, a demonstration against the burning of the Koran in the United States of America turned violent and protestors ransacked the UNAMA compound in Mazar-e-Sharif. Three UNAMA international staff and four international guards were killed. The incident was the third direct attack against United Nations premises in 17 months, following the attack against the UNAMA office in Herat in October 2010 and the assault on the Bakhtar guesthouse in Kabul in October 2009. My Chef de Cabinet and the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security immediately travelled to Afghanistan to meet with staff members and to discuss the incident with Afghan authorities. Additional measures were taken to accelerate the ongoing process of reinforcement of UNAMA offices and residences.

5. The Afghan National Security Forces and the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) have intensified and diversified their operations, continuing to clear areas from the insurgency. At the same time, the insurgency remains resilient, demonstrating a capability to launch spectacular attacks, such as the multiple complex attack against Government buildings in Kandahar City on 7 May following the escape of 488 political prisoners from a nearby prison on 25 April.

6. Insurgents continued to conduct asymmetric attacks against Afghan security officials, particularly high-profile police commanders. The Kandahar Provincial Chief of Police was killed at his headquarters on 15 April, while the Northern Zone Commander, General Mohammad Daud Daud, was killed in an attack on 28 May, which also injured the ISAF Commander for Regional Command-North. Attacks by infiltrators against military compounds and recruitment centres have increased in the north-east and east. The attack against an Afghan National Army recruitment centre in Kunduz Province, on 14 March, killed more than 30 people, indicating the intent of the insurgents to undermine the efforts being made to enhance the capacity of the Afghan National Security Forces.

7. During the reporting period, several demonstrations took place in mosques, university campuses and urban centres in the north, north-east, east and south-east of Afghanistan. Demonstrators, who in several locations (such as in Kandahar on 13 April) numbered in the thousands, protested against ISAF activities, including night searches and alleged harassment and detention of religious figures, and expressed general frustration with the international community in Afghanistan. This kind of civil unrest, which is indicative of wider public discontent, marks a departure from the previous sporadic demonstrations against the international civil and military presence and raises serious concern, given the possibility of orchestrated violent rioting against the international community.

B. Political developments

8. Political contestation within the newly elected Lower House of the National Assembly (Wolesi Jirga) continued almost four months after its inauguration. Activity by a controversial Special Court created in December to look into electoral issues has included an ad hoc recount of ballots. The recount was completed on 27 April, but its findings have yet to be publicly disclosed.

9. The National Assembly completed the selection of the administrative boards of both the Lower House and Upper House (Meshrano Jirga), which are broadly representative regionally and ethnically, although lacking female participation. Chairs and members of standing commissions — 18 in the Wolesi Jirga and 12 in

the Meshrano Jirga — were also chosen, with nearly two thirds of the Wolesi Jirga representatives being new.

10. Efforts to strengthen political outreach activities continued. At the 3 March International Contact Group meeting, held under the auspices of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, the Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, Zalmai Rassoul, stressed that the High Peace Council would continue to lead reconciliation efforts. He also expressed his appreciation for the support of the international community in this regard, noting, however, that such support should be mindful of Afghan sovereignty — a feeling echoed by the Chair of the High Peace Council, Burhanuddin Rabbani.

11. During the reporting period, the High Peace Council, accompanied and supported logistically by UNAMA, visited the provinces of Badghis, Khost, Uruzgan, Kandahar and Helmand to discuss reconciliation and reintegration with provincial authorities, elders, reconcilees and other stakeholders. From 17 to 21 May, a delegation led by the Chair of the High Peace Council and the Chief Executive of the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme, Masoom Stanekzai, also visited Turkmenistan and held meetings with the President, the Foreign Minister, the Chairpersons of Parliament and regional leaders of Turkmenistan to discuss cooperation between the two countries. Meanwhile, a number of opposition figures continue to publicly object to reconciliation efforts with the Taliban. A gathering of such political actors in Kabul in early May attracted some 1,500 participants.

12. In consultation with the High Peace Council, my Special Representative and UNAMA engaged provincial council representatives, religious and community leaders, as well as civil society, youth, women's groups and emerging political groups to discuss peace and reconciliation and ways to effectively engage opposition groups and begin an inclusive dialogue with all segments of the Afghan population. Meanwhile, under the guidance of my Special Representative, the UNAMA Salaam Support Group continues to promote confidence-building measures through advocacy on access to basic services, such as education, detainee release and the protection of civilians, including compliance with international humanitarian law by all parties to the conflict. UNAMA promotes this last issue through direct engagement with the parties, urging that they minimize risk to civilians and offering recommendations on how to do so. These measures may form the basis for some forward movement in the national and regional peace processes.

13. Progress has been reported on the reintegration of insurgents. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which manages one of the trust fund windows and provides technical and operational support to the High Peace Council and the joint secretariat of the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme, by the end of May, the number of individuals who joined the Programme since its start reached 1,809 throughout 17 provinces. Notably, in March and April, two reintegration events involving Taliban members occurred in Kandahar. This is a significant development in a region that has seen limited progress thus far. However, a number of national and international observers continued to question the background of many individuals who joined the Programme.

14. The Review Conference of the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme, held in Kabul on 10 and 11 May, assessed achievements to date and agreed on measures to enhance the implementation of the Programme. During the conference, governors voiced their frustration at the slow roll-out of the Programme and

emphasized the need to address communities rather than individual ex-combatants. The final document, which also highlights the gender dimension of the process, recognized that reconciliation and reintegration are important and integral parts of an overall peace process and that they are mutually reinforcing targets of the Programme.

C. Regional cooperation

15. The Government of Afghanistan continued its dialogue and cooperation with neighbouring countries. On 7 and 8 March, the Interior Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mostafa Mohammad Najjar, visited Kabul to discuss further cooperation in efforts to combat drug trafficking and organized crime, as well as counter-terrorism efforts. On 26 March, President Karzai visited Tehran for talks with President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

16. Several bilateral meetings between Afghanistan and Pakistan took place during the reporting period. Prime Minister Yusuf Gilani of Pakistan met with President Karzai in Kabul on 16 April. President Karzai visited Islamabad on 10 and 11 June, where he met with President Asif Ali Zardari and other high-level officials. At the conclusion of President Karzai's visit, a joint declaration outlining a common vision for peaceful bilateral relations was signed by the Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, Zalmai Rassoul and the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, Hina Rabbani Khar. The inaugural meeting of the Afghanistan-Pakistan Joint Commission for Reconciliation and Peace was held in Islamabad on 11 June. The joint statement issued at the meeting noted that Pakistan expressed its full support for the efforts of the High Peace Council for promoting peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan and assured Pakistan's cooperation and support to the Council's efforts. Both sides agreed that the High Peace Council would act as the secretariat for the Joint Commission. On 12 June, the Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement was made operational after a four-month delay. In a separate development, the tripartite meetings between Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United States resumed with a meeting in Islamabad on 3 May and a follow-up meeting in Kabul on 24 May.

17. On 12 May, the Prime Minister of India, Manmohan Singh, made his first visit to Afghanistan since 2005, announcing, before a joint session of Parliament, further economic support. The Prime Minister also conveyed India's support to Afghan efforts towards national reconciliation.

18. Multilateral initiatives also took place during the reporting period. On the margins of the Fourth Conference of the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul on 10 May, ministers and high-level representatives from Afghanistan, China, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and the United Arab Emirates, as well as my Special Representative, exchanged views on Afghanistan, reiterating their commitment to its sovereignty, indivisibility and territorial integrity. All the participants agreed to commence preparations for the Istanbul Conference on Afghanistan, to be held on 2 November 2011.

19. A working group on regional cooperation was established by the International Contact Group at its Jeddah meeting, along with three other thematic working groups (on reconciliation, transition and long-term engagement). The working group on regional cooperation met for the first time on 3 June. The meeting, which was co-chaired by the Turkish Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan and

my Special Representative, reaffirmed the commitment of regional players to Afghanistan's stability and economic prosperity through constructive regional engagement. In a separate development, Afghanistan announced its intention to submit a request for observer status in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

III. Human rights

20. The protection of civilians remained a critical concern over the reporting period. UNAMA documented 2,950 conflict-related civilian casualties (including 1,090 deaths and 1,860 injuries of Afghan civilians), an increase of 20 per cent compared to the same period in 2010. Anti-Government elements were linked to 2,361 civilian casualties (80 per cent of the total number of civilian casualties), while pro-Government forces were responsible for 292 civilian casualties (10 per cent of the total number). The remaining 10 per cent could not be attributed. The rise in civilian casualties, following the Taliban's announcement of a spring offensive on 30 April, was due in part to an expansion in the operations of anti-Government elements and pro-Government forces throughout the country, particularly in the north and in the regions bordering Pakistan.

21. The majority of civilian casualties occurred in the south and south-east regions. Improvised explosive devices planted along busy roads and suicide attacks by anti-Government elements in populated civilian areas accounted for the largest number of civilian deaths and injuries. Attacks targeting convoys, buildings and personnel of the Government and pro-Government forces, as well as civilian contractors providing logistical services to pro-Government forces, also resulted in increased numbers of civilian casualties. Despite the Taliban's public statements that the offensive should target exclusively military objectives and ensure the protection of civilians, indiscriminate attacks against civilians continued. On 21 May, for example, the Taliban claimed responsibility for a suicide attack on a national army hospital in Kabul that killed six civilians and injured 23 medical students. Intimidation, abduction and assassination of civilians associated with the Government and pro-Government forces increased, further violating the human rights of Afghans and slowing governance and development efforts.

22. Pro-Government forces continued to use air strikes and night raids to target anti-Government elements, sometimes resulting in civilian casualties and property damage. While ISAF and the Government made public apologies and considered compensation claims after such operations, these incidents continued to fuel tensions between pro-Government forces and local communities. Several violent demonstrations protesting civilian casualties and night raids occurred, with some infiltrated by anti-Government elements and other groups, resulting in further civilian casualties.

23. During the period under review, the United Nations country team worked closely with civil society and Government authorities on amendments to the draft regulation on women's protection centres put forward by the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Ministry of Justice. Earlier drafts of the regulation raised questions about the continued independent management of the centres by civil society groups and the extent to which women's rights would be protected, including against the forced return to families and non-consensual disclosure of information to law enforcement authorities. The Criminal Law Reform Working Group, comprising

national and international legal experts, including the United Nations, recommended amendments that would fully protect women's rights. The amendments were incorporated in the final version of the regulation, which, at the time of the writing of this report, had been submitted to the Technical Legislative Review Committee of the Council of Ministers for the Government's approval.

24. UNAMA continued to monitor the implementation of the Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women, including tracking the efforts of police, prosecutors and judges to apply the law, which is being enforced in only 10 of 34 provinces. UNAMA has hosted workshops in all regions of the country over the reporting period to raise awareness about the law and the findings of the UNAMA report on harmful traditional practices against women and girls, which was published at the end of 2010. The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) worked closely with the Elimination of Violence against Women Commission to promote the implementation of the law. In many areas where the justice system presence is weak, the authorities continue to refer most complaints of domestic violence and cases of running away from home to traditional dispute resolution mechanisms. Women and girls who flee their homes due to abuse or threats of forced marriage are often charged with the crime of adultery or the intent to commit adultery. Although efforts are under way to raise awareness of the Elimination of Violence against Women, women continue to be arrested and prosecuted for running away from home. During the reporting period, the Supreme Court has upheld convictions of women victims of rape for the crime of adultery, with sentences of up to 15 years imprisonment. UNAMA continued to document incidents of violence against women, including "honour killings" in Badakhshan and Kunduz Provinces and the arrest and detention of women and girls for running away from home in Nangarhar and Paktya Provinces.

25. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in partnership with relevant Government ministries and non-governmental organizations, inaugurated in June the first post-release transition shelters in Mazar-e-Sharif and Kabul for women leaving prisons. This initiative is implemented by a local non-governmental organization. The project aims at promoting successful reintegration of women prisoners into civilian life prior to and after their release, including through providing shelter, security, food and socio-psychological and capacity-building support. As of June, Afghanistan's prisons housed nearly 650 women, some with their children (over 280 minors).

26. UNAMA continues to cooperate with transitional justice, human rights and women's groups for an increased role of civil society in provincial peace committees of the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme. In consultation with civil society, UNAMA has proposed mechanisms to implement the vetting of individuals for reintegration and grievance resolution, and to address the issue of political amnesty within the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme. In May, members of the High Peace Council and Afghan civil society discussed implementation of the Programme and accountability for serious crimes at a two-day workshop organized by the Afghan Civil Society Forum, a local non-governmental organization.

27. Although in December 2010 the Government of Afghanistan pledged to allocate $1 million in the State budget for the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, the final 2011/2012 budget submitted to the Parliament allocated only $500,000. This, together with a three-month delay in salary payments

for all Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission staff owing to hold-ups in funding from major international donors, puts the Commission's independence and long-term sustainability at risk. UNAMA, with international partners, continues to assist the Commission to identify a sustainable funding mechanism.

28. Afghan journalists and media outlets continue to operate in a complex conflict environment. Many Afghan journalists report that they are directly threatened by insurgents to report favourably on them, or not to report favourably on Government activities. A statement in June by the Ulema Council called for the closure of a prominent national television broadcaster owing to "un-Islamic" coverage and criticized reporting by one of the major daily newspapers, contributing to a climate of pressure on some of the country's most outspoken independent media outlets.

29. Throughout the reporting period, UNAMA visited detention centres across Afghanistan, particularly the National Directorate of Security and Ministry of Justice facilities, to monitor arbitrary detention, ill-treatment and fair trial guarantees. UNAMA was granted access to over 24 of the National Directorate of Security detention facilities in 21 provinces throughout the country, including Kapisa, Khost, Laghman, Kabul, Herat, Kunduz and Gardez. UNAMA continued to receive allegations of ill-treatment, lengthy detention without charge or trial and lack of access to defence counsel.

30. UNAMA and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in partnership with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, organized an inter-agency briefing in Kabul to follow up on Afghanistan's initial report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Discussions were held with Government authorities, civil society and the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission on measures to enhance children's protection from violence and to address the Committee's concerns on the treatment of children, especially girls, in the justice system as perpetrators of crimes and their placement in rehabilitation centres. Special emphasis was given to the development of a national strategy to prevent and address all forms of violence against children, the introduction of a legal ban on all forms of violence against children, the consolidation of a national data system, and a research agenda in this field.

IV. Implementation of the Kabul Process and aid coherence

31. During the reporting period, the Government of Afghanistan continued to implement the Kabul Process. As of June, 11 national priority programmes, out of a total of 22, have been elaborated, and consultations are under way with donors on the content, as well as financing, of the programmes. The human resource development cluster, which covers education, technical vocational training, health and the National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan, has made significant headway with four of its five proposed national priority programmes. The infrastructure cluster has advanced key programmes in the extractive industries and regional resource sectors. The national priority programmes in which progress has been less advanced include programmes in public administration reform, subnational governance and justice.

32. The Kabul Process includes a monitoring and feedback mechanism on the London and Kabul Conference benchmarks, as well as 100-day progress reports for each national priority programme. During the reporting period, a second round of

progress reporting on national priority programmes was completed. While the Government's monitoring and reporting framework is still evolving, the mechanism is an important step in enabling regular policy dialogue between ministries and development partners and has the potential to promote increased coordination among donors in support of Government programmes. UNAMA facilitated approximately 30 consultations between line ministries and development partners and a review among partners to identify best practices and ways to further strengthen regular dialogue. In addition, UNAMA is supporting the engagement of civil society in Afghanistan's prioritized development agenda. A task force comprised of the Ministry of Finance and civil society networks has been established to facilitate regular consultation, and UNAMA is working with the representatives of the networks to support their participation in Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board structures.

33. The elaboration of Afghanistan's prioritized development agenda is taking place, however, against the backdrop of the continued absence of an International Monetary Fund (IMF) country programme. While an agreement is yet to be reached between the Government and IMF, many donors, underscoring the importance of an IMF programme as demonstration of the soundness of Afghanistan's macroeconomic status, are withholding the release of additional finances to the World Bank-administered Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund. The Ministry of Finance has signalled to the international community that the continued lack of an IMF programme will have marked negative consequences for the Government's potential ability to pay salaries as well as for the continued implementation of national programmes.

34. The continued absence of an IMF programme will also impact the delivery by development partners of their commitments made at the London and Kabul Conferences to progressively transfer aid to the Government budget. During the reporting period, the Government continued to take the lead in coordinating donor financing and in advocating for the realization of donor commitments to the principles of aid effectiveness. In April, the Government released its review of donor financing to Afghanistan, the *Development Cooperation Report* (2010), and participated in the global survey on implementation of the commitments made in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. Key findings suggested that Afghanistan's public finance and expenditure management reforms are leading to improvements in gross domestic product and revenue mobilization, but that budget execution remains a key concern. While initial findings suggest an increase in assistance delivered through the national budget, there are continued gaps in alignment of donor resources to Government priorities, harmonization of aid and mutual accountability for development results. Notable positive improvements have been seen in the areas of education and health, with progressive donor coordination processes resulting in better leveraging of resources and more coordinated donor/Government policy dialogue. With a view to constructively addressing aid coherence issues, the Government intends to establish a task force to develop a medium-term action plan to address these issues with donors.

35. There is consensus that it is critical to maintain momentum behind the Kabul Process and the dialogue between the international community and the Government. It has therefore been agreed to proceed with the three standing committees (on governance, socio-economic development and security) of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board in July.

V. Transition update

36. The process of transition towards Afghan security responsibility (*Inteqal*), as approved and formally initiated at the NATO Lisbon Summit in November 2010, moved forward with the 22 March announcement by President Karzai of the first areas identified for transition starting in July. The seven areas are the provinces of Kabul (except the Sarobi district), Panjshir and Bamiyan and the municipalities (and corresponding districts) of Herat (Herat Province), Mazar-e-Sharif (Balkh Province), Mehtar Lam (Laghman Province) and Lashkar Gah (Helmand Province).

37. The NATO-led ISAF has undertaken a two-stage planning process for transition in coordination with the Afghan Transition Coordination Commission led by Ashraf Ghani. The first step focuses on the conditions necessary for the beginning of the transition process in the identified areas, while the second step addresses the necessary actions towards completing the transition process and reaching full Afghan security responsibility. The planning process is intended to take into account key development and governance elements that may impact the security transition and support sustainable transfer of lead security responsibility. A priority for the Government has been to address the role of provincial reconstruction teams to avoid parallel structures and to ensure that international efforts are centred on supporting the development of capacity and effective delivery of basic services by Afghan institutions. ISAF and the Government have agreed on the need for close linkage between the transition planning and the Kabul Process priorities and mechanisms so as to ensure that short-term transition activities contribute to Afghanistan's medium-term development.

38. As an observer of the process, UNAMA has engaged with Government and ISAF interlocutors with a view to avoiding parallel processes that may be counter-productive for the development of Afghan institutions, as well as mitigating any detrimental shift of resources to transition areas away from non-transition areas. The Mission continues to facilitate dialogue among development partners, and between these partners and ISAF, to ensure that development perspectives are taken into account in the transition design and planning.

39. In the field, UNAMA continues to work closely with provincial development councils and sector working groups led by line ministries to strengthen the coordination of provincial development planning and aligned support from provincial reconstruction teams and donors. As part of its effort towards greater coherence, UNAMA has facilitated an ongoing dialogue on transition among United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in Afghanistan in order to identify linkages between existing activities and the Government's priorities. This includes looking at ongoing United Nations activities in the first group of regional areas identified for transition in order to better support a sustainable transition process, particularly the capacity of provincial authorities to assess development needs, identify key gaps in funding and coordinate line departments and donors present in the provinces.

VI. Governance

40. There has been some progress in the implementation of the subnational governance policy framework, although significant work remains to be done, including in establishing consensus on the roles and responsibilities of Government

institutions at the central, provincial, municipal and district levels. A critical area of work is to clarify sustainable provincial budgeting mechanisms and ensure that financing approved by the central Government reaches provincial and district authorities. This will become particularly important during the transition, as it is likely that donor financing at the local level will decline in overall terms and development funds should be increasingly directed to national budget and central-level mechanisms. In May, the Ministry of Finance brought together provincial officials for a meeting on provincial budgeting. The Ministry will also initiate a pilot provincial budget programme to direct more funds to provinces in the coming months. This is an important Government-led development that must be actively supported by donors.

41. With the support of the UNDP national area-based development programme, nearly 400 elected representatives of their communities — members of District Development Assemblies from all 34 provinces of Afghanistan — gathered in Kabul in May for the first National Conference of District Development Assemblies. The Conference assessed the achievements of the Assemblies, identified lessons learned and advocated for support to the Assemblies by the central Government.

42. As part of its effort to improve the transparency of senior appointments and service delivery at the subnational level, the Government converted the status of Deputy Governors and District Governors from political appointees to civil servant positions and established transparent and merit-based recruitment. The Civil Service Commission and the Independent Directorate of Local Governance have recruited 56 District Governors and 13 Deputy Governors through the second quarter of 2011. UNAMA closely observed the process and noticed that, in spite of some challenges at the local level, the process was implemented correctly and was positively received by the general public.

43. The joint anti-corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee was inaugurated on 11 May. The six members (three Afghan and three international), who were appointed through a presidential decree, highlighted the efforts being made by the Government of Afghanistan in fulfilling the outcomes of the London and Kabul Conferences. Over the coming months, the Committee is expected to help develop clear and objective benchmarks for progress in tackling corruption and to prepare periodic reports on national and international activities for the President, the Parliament and all Afghans.

44. Even as challenges to the 2010 electoral process continue, there are efforts to ensure that electoral expertise and resources built up to date are retained and consolidated. UNDP is in the process of finalizing a successor electoral assistance project to the ELECT (Enhancing Legal and Electoral Capacity for Tomorrow) project in consultation with Afghan authorities and donors, which is expected to commence in July or August.

VII. Humanitarian assistance

45. During the reporting period, the ongoing conflict and the growing number of security incidents across the country resulted in a considerable increase in displacements. Humanitarian access further decreased as a result of insecurity. Attacks or violence in and around civilian infrastructure, including schools and medical facilities, continued. In certain areas, the response to the annual spring floods was hampered by fighting. In the central region, only 39 out of 111 districts

were accessible to the United Nations, and in and around Kandahar only 5 out of 55 districts were accessible. United Nations agencies restricted their activities to provincial headquarters and their immediate surroundings, and internally displaced persons often had to travel to main cities in order to receive assistance. Humanitarian workers continued to be subject to attacks, and certain organizations that previously enjoyed relatively good access have seen that access diminished. In May, 26 incidents against humanitarian workers were reported, while 14 incidents were reported in the first two weeks of June. Natural disasters remained a constant threat to vulnerable populations. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and partners therefore developed regional contingency plans to streamline information sharing, pre-position aid stocks and strengthen delivery mechanisms. As part of overall effort to facilitate the work of the Afghan National Disaster Management Authority, 10 regional plans were prepared during the reporting period. To ensure timely and appropriate responses to needs, the humanitarian community strengthened its capacity alongside lead agencies of the humanitarian cluster at national and regional levels.

46. The World Food Programme (WFP) is making renewed efforts to support local economic development by increasing local procurement of food directly from Afghan manufacturers. As of May, WFP had purchased 4,000 metric tons of wheat from small-scale farmers or agricultural cooperatives and roughly 24,000 metric tons of wheat from the Afghan Ministry of Agriculture. As of mid-May, WFP required an additional $250 million through the end of the year to continue planned support for 7 million vulnerable people, with little indication that funding will become available to meet the shortfall. A strategic review of WFP activities was conducted to determine how to best prioritize its food assistance given the funding outlook and conditions on the ground.

47. Displacement figures at the end of May topped 435,436 individuals, up 4 per cent from the last report, indicating a significant acceleration of the pace and scale of conflict-related displacement. Conflict-driven displacement and shortcomings in reintegration support are not only humanitarian issues, but also represent a significant security concern, given their destabilizing potential. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) supported the return of 23,823 individuals (19,536 individuals from Pakistan and 4,250 individuals from Iran (Islamic Republic of)) during the reporting period, bringing the cumulative assisted returns since 2002 to over 4.6 million, or approximately 25 per cent of the estimated national population in Afghanistan. UNHCR is promoting a more comprehensive approach to sustainable reintegration, with pilots identified in seven provinces. This approach is broadly linked to regional considerations discussed at the Tripartite Commission meetings in Kabul in early May.

48. While national figures indicate a silent crisis for 5 million children (42 per cent of all children) not in school due to poverty and vulnerability, significant progress was made in promoting access to schooling through provision of learning spaces, establishment of community-based schools and the provision of teaching and learning materials. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has provided literacy and skills development classes to illiterate youths and adults in 18 provinces through the programme for the enhancement of literacy in Afghanistan. Between April and June, 91,400 learners were enrolled in 3,656 literacy classes in 18 provinces in Afghanistan. Despite the security situation in some districts, literacy classes are being held successfully.

49. Afghanistan remains one of the four polio-endemic countries in the world, and UNICEF, along with partners, continues to support children's polio vaccination campaigns in the country. These campaigns are essential to stop transmission of the polio virus, which is manifest primarily in the southern region. Vaccination campaigns are, however, hampered by security conditions in the southern region; during the reporting period, a significant number of areas remained inaccessible in Kandahar Province and, most recently, in Zabul Province. Innovative efforts continue to be explored to reach and vaccinate all children under five years of age in those areas.

50. Progress has been made towards clearing mine and explosive ordnance. By May, up to 27 per cent of areas contaminated with mines had been cleared. This is an increase of 15 per cent since 2006. A total of 255 (out of 398) districts are still contaminated.

VIII. Counter-narcotics

51. In March, under the Triangular Initiative, Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran carried out a joint operation on the three border crossings in the provinces of Farah, Nimroz and Herat. As a result of this operation, almost 1,000 kg of opium and over 600 kg of heroin were seized on both sides of the border and a number of traffickers were arrested by both Afghan and Iranian police.

52. The second train-the-trainer programme at the Counter-Narcotics Training Academy commenced in May. The 12-week programme aims to strengthen the Academy cadre towards building the capacity of an Afghan-owned, independent centre of excellence in the region. Complementing the Government's development strategy, this initiative is considered crucial for Afghanistan's long-term strategy to address illegal opium production, organized crime, manufacture of illegal drugs and smuggling of precursor chemicals.

53. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime facilitated the visit of the Head of the Anti-Narcotics Force of Pakistan to Kabul on 1 and 2 May. During meetings between the Head of the Anti-Narcotics Force and his Afghan counterparts, both parties agreed that a regional approach was needed to address narcotic-related issues in Afghanistan and called for closer cooperation between Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries in this regard. They also recognized the need for a joint counter-narcotics strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan. It was further agreed that the two countries would conduct the first joint field operation under the Triangular Initiative before the end of June. Separate multilateral counter-narcotics initiatives during the period under review included the sixth Triangular Initiative senior officials meeting between Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan in Tehran on 31 May.

54. Progress has been made by the Government of Afghanistan in the establishment of drug treatment and HIV prevention services. The methadone maintenance therapy is a pilot programme for 200 drug users, implemented by the Ministry of Public Health. An external evaluation in April, supported by the World Health Organization, found that the programme was in line with international and national guidelines and was effective. However, the irregular supply of methadone therapy in Afghanistan, resulting from the short-term import approvals of methadone by the Government authorities, has had an adverse effect on treatment outcomes for drug users.

IX. Mission support

55. Against a backdrop of declining security and in keeping with the recommendations of the Department of Safety and Security, UNAMA implemented security enhancement projects throughout the country. In managing the aftermath of the Mazar-e-Sharif incident and to ensure safety and access of staff to counselling, the majority of international staff was relocated to Kabul pending completion of additional security enhancement at a secondary site in the city that was previously used solely for residential accommodation of staff members. Once the security enhancement works are completed in June, a limited number of international staff will return to Mazar-e-Sharif on a permanent basis, using this secondary site for both office and residential accommodation. This is to be an interim solution pending completion of a purpose-built office and residential compound to be the new regional headquarters in Mazar-e-Sharif. A memorandum of understanding was signed with the Government of Afghanistan in May, and work on this new compound is expected to be completed by March 2012. Construction of a secure regional office compound on land provided free of charge by the Government continues in Kandahar and is expected to be completed by the last quarter of 2011. A similar project is being developed for Bamyan, where a memorandum of understanding with the Government was signed in April and work is expected to be completed by March 2012.

56. In order to ensure that all mission support activities remain fully operational in times of crisis through remote links to Kuwait, UNAMA conducted a live disaster recovery and business continuity exercise in Kuwait in May. The success of this exercise underscores the viability of maintaining a support office in a secure location.

57. In close consultation with UNAMA and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), a team of experts from United Nations Headquarters conducted a review to explore potential efficiencies in consolidating UNAMA and UNAMI support offices in Kuwait. The recommendations of the review team are expected to be submitted for endorsement by the Department of Field Support in June. Once approved, the recommendations will serve as the basis for the development of the 2012-2013 budget proposals for both Missions. Project implementation is expected to be rolled out in stages over a two-year period.

58. Despite the deteriorating security environment, UNAMA has been able to maintain its vacancy rates at 21 per cent for international staff and 13 per cent for national staff (as of April 2011). I wish to thank Member States for their support in harmonizing the terms and conditions of service among the United Nations system staff serving in hardship locations, such as Afghanistan, as the retention of experienced staff remains as much a priority as recruitment.

X. Observations

59. **The current reporting period overlaps with the beginning of the implementation of the transition towards greater Afghan leadership and ownership. This is taking place amidst lingering internal and external tensions and against the backdrop of intensified military operations and the resumption of fierce seasonal anti-Government attacks, of which the civilian population is bearing the brunt of the burden. Against this background, UNAMA has**

continued to align its strategic priorities with its renewed mandate, in line with the needs and aspirations of the Afghan people, and in support of Government-led initiatives. Without prejudice to the comprehensive review required by the Security Council in its resolution 1974 (2011), these priorities continue to be defined as: the facilitation of political processes for peace and reconciliation, the protection and promotion of human rights, support to accountable governance, advocacy and promotion of coherent efforts in support of the transition process, and socio-economic development to further medium- to long-term stability.

60. **Security for the United Nations in Afghanistan has become an increasing challenge for the Organization. In the aftermath of the Mazar-e-Sharif incident, I offered my condolences and support to the families of the victims and those affected. I continue to have the deepest admiration for the dedication shown by all the United Nations staff who continue to serve in Afghanistan, despite the deadly threats they frequently encounter in their duties. The security and well-being of United Nations personnel remain of utmost concern. In this regard, I appreciate the efforts being undertaken by my Special Representative and his team in addressing these concerns. I will continue to give my personal attention to ensuring that the necessary security recommendations are implemented. I take this opportunity to thank the Government of Afghanistan for its efforts and its renewed commitment to support UNAMA in this respect. I also call upon Member States to join me in ensuring that the United Nations has the commensurate resources to remain fully engaged and to support the people of Afghanistan.**

61. **I am concerned by the human cost of the conflict and its impact on the lives of ordinary Afghans. Persistent insecurity has brought about a steady rise in civilian casualties. I remain especially concerned by the number of civilians, in particular Afghan children and women, being indiscriminately affected by the conflict. All concerned must do their utmost to protect civilians and comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law.**

62. **Progress towards a political settlement requires a redoubling of effort by all parties to promote mutual confidence and to explore opportunities for peace. It will necessitate, eventually, a demonstrated willingness to engage in a structured dialogue that addresses both confidence-building and substantive issues. Such a dialogue, in turn, needs empowered interlocutors and must be part of a wider, inclusive political process. This should be supported by the international community, not least so as to safeguard the hard-earned political gains made by Afghanistan's democratic institutions.**

63. **The Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme is currently the one working programme dealing with the reintegration of armed anti-Government individuals and groups willing to lay down their weapons. Improvements in its delivery and organization can assist in reintegrating former combatants into their communities. While the Programme has the potential to provide insurgents with an escape from combat, it must also ensure that those seeking to join and benefit from the Programme are properly vetted to confirm that they are genuine reconcilees, not criminal or political groups seeking either blanket amnesty for past crimes or to profit from the rewards of the Programme.**

64. **The decision of the Security Council to split the Al-Qaida and Taliban sanctions regime established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) is a positive development in support of the Afghan-led reconciliation efforts. The Government of Afghanistan and the international community should continue to give due consideration to the tools offered by the sanctions regime. Further confidence-building measures on the part of all sides could help lay the foundations for a political process.**

65. **In this regard, the UNAMA Salaam Support Group will continue to support and advise the High Peace Council on matters relating to peace and reconciliation, including on their national consultations and outreach. UNAMA will also encourage and back efforts to elicit the views, concerns and aspirations of all segments of Afghan society, and support their inclusion in a comprehensive reconciliation process. A political solution to the conflict that allows the full participation and engagement of all Afghans is critical to a transition that promotes stability, sustainable peace and greater respect for basic human rights and freedoms.**

66. **Positive steps towards regional cooperation will also be important for the sustainability of any eventual peace process, and, in that regard, I express my support for the working group meeting co-chaired by UNAMA and Turkey in Istanbul in early June as a prelude to the full conference in Istanbul later in the year. The linked areas of regional trade and security require confidence and collaboration between neighbouring States. My Special Representative will continue his regional coordination role to facilitate closer dialogue between the regional actors.**

67. **The transition process faces many challenges as it moves from July onwards into the implementation phase for the first group of areas identified. This process remains primarily an ISAF priority responsibility. Yet as the transition process matures, it is important to ensure that it is Afghan-owned. UNAMA has stressed the need for a comprehensive engagement with Afghan line ministries for the successful planning and implementation of the process. UNAMA field offices will endeavour to support the local government's contribution to the process.**

68. **ISAF, alongside the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan, continues to lead international capacity-building and reform efforts for the Afghan National Security Forces. The overall performance of the Afghan security forces has improved as a result of focused training and capacity-building efforts. The *Inteqal* process to Afghan assumption of all security responsibilities must continue to build on those efforts.**

69. **It is vital that the transition be managed so as to lead to an improvement in security, as well as better access to essential services for the population. Development assistance, an evident "peace dividend", must be sustained for those areas currently undergoing transition as well as all other provinces.**

70. **For there to be proper human security, the Afghan people must be able to see their grievances addressed and have access to basic social services, economic opportunity, freedom of movement and protection from criminal and armed groups. The establishment of a legitimate and efficient governance framework at the local level, as well as functional relations between the central**

and local government, are critical for Afghanistan's stability and prosperity. The lack of agreement on an IMF programme has the potential to negatively impact the roll-out of the Government's prioritized agenda for economic growth and development. A protracted delay in implementing the national priority programmes, owing to a suspension or reduction in funding, could lead to an imbalance between the civilian and military components of Afghanistan's transition, which is due to begin in late July.

71. The inauguration of the joint independent anti-corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee demonstrated the Government's resolve to implement the commitments made at the London and Kabul Conferences. I welcome the launch of the Committee and offer every encouragement in its efforts to address an issue of mutual concern to both the Government of Afghanistan and the international community. I encourage all parties to recognize the value of the Committee's work as both a platform to help reduce corruption and deliver good governance, and a confidence-building measure that promotes transparency and accountability.

72. The checks and balances between the three branches of Government have been the subject of both tension and negotiation in Afghanistan's nascent democracy. The investigation by the Special Court has distracted the Wolesi Jirga members from the critical issues on the legislative agenda, as the results of the recount by the Special Court threaten to unseat many members. The effects of these impending decisions may undermine future electoral activities, if not handled properly.

73. The United Nations in Afghanistan remains committed to the principle of "Delivering as One". To this end, I am pleased to announce that the United Nations team in Afghanistan, under the leadership of my Special Representative, has completed its integrated strategic framework. The integrated strategic framework has been structured to ensure that it is synchronized with the upcoming midterm review of the 2010-2013 United Nations Development Assistance Framework. Consequently, the integrated strategic framework is not an end in itself, but rather serves as a mechanism to bring greater coherence to the United Nations programme delivery efforts in support of the Kabul Process.

74. In accordance with Security Council resolution 1974 (2011), I have commenced the preparations for a comprehensive review of the mandated activities of UNAMA and United Nations support in Afghanistan. This review will be conducted in consultation with the Government of Afghanistan and relevant international stakeholders, and will inform the Council's review of the mandate of the Mission in March 2012.

75. Finally, I thank my Special Representative, Staffan de Mistura, the staff of UNAMA and all United Nations personnel in Afghanistan, national and international, for their dedication and commitment towards a more peaceful, prosperous and stable Afghanistan.

United Nations S/2011/382

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 June 2011

Original: English

Letter dated 21 June 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government regarding the issue of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and missing Kuwaiti property, I have the honour to transmit herewith the position of the Government of Iraq on the thirty-first report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 14 of resolution 1284 (1999) (S/2011/373) (see annex).

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) T. Hamid **Al-Bayati**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

11-38779 (E) 270611 280611

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 21 June 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

1. With regard to the Secretary-General's report (S/2011/373) on the issue of missing Kuwaiti nationals and Kuwaiti property, paragraph 14 of which addresses the Iraqi Government's determination to resolve the issue of missing Kuwaiti property, we would like to recall that Iraq has indeed demonstrated its resolve to find a solution to this issue, a fact that was noted in the Secretary-General's previous reports. An example of that resolve was the circulation by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of a letter to all ministries and other institutions requesting that they should report any relevant information or documents that belong to the State of Kuwait. Moreover, an advertisement was run in Iraqi newspapers calling on citizens who might have information concerning those documents or property to so inform the authorities. Those actions demonstrate the Iraqi Government's determination to resolve this issue. The Ministry of Industry indicated in response that it was aware of property that belongs to the Kuwaiti Ministry of Industry. Although the Kuwaiti side was informed of this in January 2010, we have yet to receive a response as to what should be done with that property.

2. With regard to paragraph 19 of the report, concerning the establishment of a ministerial committee to clarify the fate of the Kuwaiti national archives, it should be noted that there are two such committees. The first is a high-level ministerial committee chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and having as members the Ministers of Oil, Finance and the Interior. This committee, which is responsible for all outstanding issues between Iraq and Kuwait, may invite any other relevant party to participate in its work, if necessary. The other committee was formed within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is responsible for returning any Kuwaiti property and archives. In addition to the above-mentioned committees, the Iraqi-Kuwaiti ministerial committee began its work in April 2011.

3. With regard to paragraph 20, concerning the extension of the High-level Coordinator's mandate, we do not support the extension of Mr. Tarasov's mandate because of the existence of the aforementioned committees responsible for the issue of property and the archives, as well as the Tripartite Commission and the Technical Subcommittee, both of which are responsible for the issue of missing Kuwaitis.

United Nations A/65/875–S/2011/383

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixty-fifth session
Agenda items 66, 68, 85, 117 and 120

Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

Promotion and protection of human rights

The rule of law at the national and international levels

Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations

Strengthening of the United Nations system

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Letter dated 21 June 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the address by the Council of the Heads of States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States to the peoples of the Commonwealth and the world community on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the start of the Great Patriotic War, 1941-1945 (see annex).

I should be grateful if it could be circulated as a document of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 66, 68, 85, 117 and 120, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sirodjidin **Aslov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

11-38688 (E) 280611 290611

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 21 June 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Address by the Heads of States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States to the peoples of the States members of the Commonwealth and the world community on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the start of the Great Patriotic War, 1941-1945

Seventy years ago, on 22 June 1941, Nazi Germany and its Axis allies treacherously attacked the Soviet Union. It was the beginning of the Great Patriotic War, the most terrible ordeal in the history of the peoples of the multinational Soviet State. They came through that ordeal with honour.

Rising in defence of their homeland, our peoples struggled with an insidious and cruel enemy on fronts stretching from the Barents Sea to the Black Sea and showed the world the greatest examples of heroism, resistance and patriotism both on the battle field and on the home front. They shared all hardships and adversities equally, firmly believing in the justness of their fight, and together they survived and defeated the enemy.

The first day of the war, which was especially gruelling for those who bore the brunt of the Nazi onslaught, became the first step on the long road to Victory. We remember what it cost us and how much grief and suffering our peoples endured. As those dramatic events recede into the past, the stronger is our feeling of gratitude and indebtedness to all those who defended their homeland and whose enormous sacrifices freed the peoples of Europe from Nazi enslavement.

We recall with gratitude the contribution of the Allies and anti-fascist fighters from other countries, we will never forget the sacrifices they brought to the altar of our shared Victory.

We bow our heads at the memory of those who fell in battle, were tortured in concentration camps and Nazi torture chambers or perished from hunger and hardship.

The seventieth anniversary of the Great Patriotic War reminds everyone that this must never happen again and that all aggressors will inevitably meet with just retribution. We consider it important to pass on to our descendants the historical truth about this war, its tragic beginning and victorious end. The Great Victory is one of the major historical events uniting the peoples of our countries. The Great Victory is the highest spiritual value and a moral reference point for all post-war generations who were brought up on the ideals of friendship, brotherliness and good neighbourliness.

We, the Heads of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, call on the international community to unite its efforts to build and consolidate peace without wars, conflict and violence, on the basis of the noble purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, for the well-being and prosperity of all peoples and States.